

23 January 1959

Mr. A. Sidney Buford III
Director
Office of Intelligence Resources
and Coordination
Room 614
State Annex - 1
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

On 17 November 1958 I wrote you concerning our proposal to establish a U.S. Government sponsored Joint Publications Procurement Service in Paris. Since that time we have had a meeting with some members of your staff and have done further investigation into the mechanics for implementing the proposal. I am attaching to this letter several copies of a General Implementation Plan for Joint Publications Procurement Service for your study and comment.

During the course of the research necessary to prepare this plan, we found several items which I believe are of interest in the consideration of our proposal. In the first place, Paul Borel's recent trip confirmed my own impression from an earlier trip that publications procurement has a very low priority at most posts. There is, I understand, consideration being given to cutting positions in the EUR area, with resultant decrease in publications procurement activity a probability in light of other requirements levied by the Department on the field.

In the second place, we have estimated that the total cost of purchasing publications from HZ for calendar year 1958 was over \$38,000. Our attached plan, exclusive of the salaries for the two Americans at the head, calls for an annual budget of approximately \$23,100. 25X1A9a Based on the limited experience of [REDACTED] we believe that our program could operate with the booksellers absorbing the transportation costs in lieu of their usual 10% discount. Thus we would be able to effect economies in the purchasing costs, as well as provide more efficient response to requirements.

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We are keenly aware of the importance of a program which will provide prompt and reliable service to the U.S. Government agencies in the publications procurement field. We also believe that it is incumbent upon us to try a scheme which would provide economies to the Government, particularly in view of the President's repeatedly expressed desires so to do.

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If you or your staff have any questions concerning aspects of the program, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

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Deputy Assistant Director

Attachments

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cc:

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